Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

causing a kernel portion of an operating system to retrieve a property published within a first process; and

causing the kernel portion to notify the retrieved property to one or more further processes requesting to subscribe to the property,

wherein the operating system is configured to supply a retrieved property in the form of a first part comprising a property name space and a second part comprising a property type,

wherein the property type is provided with an access control policy defined when the property is created, and

wherein the access control policy is defined during boot of the operating system.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 1 wherein the name space comprises a category part and a key part.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the category part comprises a unique identifier (UID).

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 wherein the key part comprises a unique identifier (UID).

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 [[to]] wherein the name space comprises a 64-bit integer comprised of two 32-bit parts.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 1 wherein the property type comprises an integer value and/or a byte array descriptor.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the byte array descriptor is of variable length.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the integer value comprises 64.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the byte array descriptor comprises of between 0 and 512 bytes.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the byte array descriptor is provided in the form of Unicode text.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1[[2]] wherein the access control policy cannot be changed after the property has been created.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1[[2]] wherein the access control policy arranges the property in a reserved category which only allows a property to be defined in that category by a process having a write-system-data capability.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein causing the kernel portion to notify comprises causing the kernel portion to notify to the one or more further processes only that the property has changed without specifying a new value for the retrieved property, thereby enabling notification of multiple changes in the value of the property by a single notification.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the kernel portion applies a

limit on the number of further processes subscribing to the property.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the kernel portion is configured to define an order in which the property is notified to the one or more further processes, and wherein causing the kernel portion to notify comprises causing the kernel portion to notify in accordance with the defined order.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising causing the kernel portion to write the retrieved property to a memory space having a size which is predefined and not determined to the size of the retrieved property.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, further comprising causing the kernel portion to allocate further memory space for the writing of the retrieved property in an instance in which the retrieved property cannot be accommodated in the memory space of predefined size.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein causing the kernel portion to notify comprises using a kernel thread of known priority to notify the retrieved property to the one or more further processes.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the kernel thread of known priority comprises a supervisor type thread of the operating system kernel.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, further comprising using a deferred function call queued on the supervisor type thread to notify the retrieved property to the one or more further processes.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the property is removable from the operating system only by a process which created it.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein removal of a property from the operating system is controlled by a security identifier (SID).

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein retrieving and/or subscribing to the property is controlled by a security identifier (SID).

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the property is provided with a persistence attribute.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 27 wherein the kernel portion is configured to direct the retrieved property into persistent storage.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the kernel portion is configured to commit any outstanding change to the property to storage as part of operating system shutdown.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the property comprises a message queue facility comprising a message and message queue.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein the message queue is provided with a handle for enabling a message queue object to be opened by a reader and/or a writer of a message in the message queue.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein the kernel portion limits the maximum size of message that can be placed in the message queue.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32 wherein the maximum message size is 36 bytes.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein the size of the

message queue is fixed by a first call to open the message queue.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein messages placed in the message queue are provided with a priority level for sequencing messages in the message queue.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35 wherein seven priority levels are provided for messages sequenced in the message queue.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35 wherein messages in the message queue having the same priority level are delivered from the message queue on a first in first out basis.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein a wait for space facility is provided for enabling, when the message queue is full when a call is made by a party to place a message on that message queue, the message to be placed on the message queue as soon as space becomes available on the message queue without the need for a further call from that party.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein a wait for data facility is provided for enabling, when no messages are present on the message queue when a request to retrieve a message on the message queue is received from a party, a message appearing on the message queue to be notified to that party without the need for a further call from that party.

40-41. (Canceled).

42. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a processor and a memory storing computer program code, wherein the memory and stored computer program code are configured, with the processor, to cause the apparatus to at least:

cause a kernel portion of an operating system to retrieve a property published within a first process; and

cause the kernel portion to notify the retrieved property to one or more further processes requesting to subscribe to the property,

wherein the operating system is configured to supply a retrieved property in the form of a first part comprising a property name space and a second part comprising a property type,

wherein the property type is provided with an access control policy defined when the property is created, and

wherein the access control policy is defined during boot of the operating system.

43-45. (Canceled).

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the memory and stored computer program code are configured, with the processor, to cause the apparatus to cause the kernel portion to notify by causing the kernel portion to notify to the one or more further processes only that the property has changed without specifying a new value for the retrieved property, thereby enabling notification of multiple changes in the value of the property by a single notification.

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the memory and stored computer program code are configured, with the processor, to cause the apparatus to cause the kernel portion to notify at least in part by using a kernel thread of known priority to notify the retrieved property to the one or more further processes.

48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the property is removable from the operating system only by a process which created it.

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the property comprises a message queue facility comprising a message and a message queue.

50. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory memory having computer-readable program instructions stored therein, the computer-readable program instructions comprising program instructions configured to cause an apparatus to perform a method comprising:

causing a kernel portion of an operating system to retrieve a property published within a first process; and

causing the kernel portion to notify the retrieved property to one or more further processes requesting to subscribe to the property,

wherein the operating system is configured to supply a retrieved property in the form of a first part comprising a property name space and a second part comprising a property type,

wherein the property type is provided with an access control policy defined when the property is created, and

wherein the access control policy is defined during boot of the operating system.